

INDO-CHINA

Music is the companion of the theatre,
It is during and **between** the acts. Singing
is the
medium for the dreamy and sentimental Khmer soul.
The
form is less and their composition not confined to
professional
output. Though the love theme is monotonous, the
improvisations are
and beloved by **all** classes of the Khmers. Anonymous*
like
all Khmer art, it announces melodiously the futility of
all achievement.
Unfortunately the Khmers listen with such
reverence and melting
to what has been composed **many** years ago, that they
prefer
to the old repertoire of about twenty-eight
pieces, rather than to
afresh their own.
from art forms connected with the theatre
and **archi-**
tectural ornamentation, Khmer culture is mediocre and
in no way com-
to the Siamese, which has fundamentally the
same inspiration.

ECONOMY

The Mekong dominates Cambodian **economy.** It
absorbs all tributaries
is changing its banks, thereby displacing
houses and
Yet the Khmer htoniity before its whims is based on
great riwr's essential **benevolence**, for every year it
leaves a billion
of fertile **soil.** **The** Mekong is on its test behaviour
in not impossibly torrential, as where it
flows through
The is the second **most** important physical
factor
ia the country. The wooded **mountains form** an
impenetrabte
If Cambodia geographical protection it is
that **the** of **seaports**, which they now cut
off>
the country's decline, They cut off human as
as have contributed to an ingrown
localism.
resources, which the French are

trying to
 by **exploitation** in precious
 woods
 yet of be ait before there is any *
 in the
 of the forest On beiags is another
 of its Even its **is portentous:** there is
 an
life, *n tad activity. Hordes of ants on
 by —efieiywhorc a
 or Its is does
 no*
 its to **of day.** Beside **its**
vitality,